

**CLARK COUNTY
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION
Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, September 1, 2004

6:30 – 9:00 PM

78th Street Maintenance and Operations Center

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Anne Jackson, Bill Owen, Judy Schramm, Don Steinke, Art Stubbs, Judy Thoet and, Virginia VanBreedman

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Robbie Agard

Clark County Public Works Staff

Cary Armstrong, Kelli Frost, Bev Kappler, Earl Rowell, Rod Swanson and, Scott Wilson

Public

There were no members of the public in attendance

Call to Order

Introduction

The members of the Clark County Clean Water Commission and Clark County staff were introduced. The meeting was then called to order.

Agenda and material review

The material for the meeting includes:

1. 9/1/04 Agenda
2. Resignation letter from Mr. Stienke
3. Letter from Washington Department of Ecology to Rod Swanson
4. NPDES permit update to Washington Department of Ecology
5. Letter from Washington Department of Transportation
6. Vancouver Lake information
7. Editorial regarding the Stream Health Report
8. Capital Improvement information

Clean Water Commission Notes

The notes from the 8/4/04 were not available for approval; they will be submitted at the 10/6/04 meeting.

Clean Water Fee Update

Mr. Rowell informed the Commissioners that the Treasurer's Office will be sending out delinquent letters to 10,000+ clean water fee customers, this may increase the number of clean water related calls received by Water Resources staff.

Mr. Steinke Resignation

Mr. Steinke stated that because his new teaching position in Oregon City requires him to teach several subjects a day and with the additional commuting time he did not feel he could devote as much time as needed to the Clean Water Commission. He expressed his thanks for being a part of the Clean Water Commission. His resignation will be effective 9/30/04.

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Mr. Rowell and Mr. Stubbs expressed their thanks and gratitude for Mr. Steinke's four and a half years of service on the Clean Water Commission.

Communications with the public and media

Mr. Rowell stated that he recently spoke with Mr. Case from the BattleGround Reflector, who was interested in knowing more about the Clean Water Fee and how the money that is collected is being spent.

Mr. Rowell noted that if the Clean Water Commissioners are ever asked these questions that most of the information is available in annual reports on the Clark County Water Resources web site at <http://www.co.clark.wa.us/water-resources/index.html>

Mr. Rowell showed the Clean Water Commissioners part of an exhibit from the Small Acreage Program that was displayed at the Clark County Fair. The Small Acreage Program and the Watershed Stewards exhibit booths won best in show at the fair.

Mr. Rowell updated the Clean Water Commissioners on the status of the Engineer III vacancy. He hopes to have a person hired to fill the position within the next two weeks. (update: The position was filled as of 9/27/04 by Mr. James Soli, P.E.)

Oil Brochure

Mr. Rowell updated the Clean Water Commissioners regarding the oil brochure that will be available for distribution at various Auto Licensing facilities in Clark County. The brochure is in the process of being printed and it should be available to distribute by the October 3rd Commission Meeting.

Ms. Rasmussen recalled that it was Mr. Frisby who suggested this idea to staff and she asked if the Clean Water Commission could recognize his contribution at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Rowell replied that staff was working on coordinating with Mr. Frisby to attend a future Clean Water Commission meeting. (update: Mr. Frisby will attend the November 3, 2004 Clean Water Commission Meeting at Public Works 78th Street Operations Center)

Ms. Thoet recommended contacting the various news agencies to see if they would be interested in doing a news article on Mr. Frisby.

Mr. Rowell replied that staff would be working on contacting the media.

Stormwater facilities private and public owned

Mr. Armstrong introduced himself and described that part of his duties are to meet with businesses that may have potential source control issues and educating and helping them correct any problems that they may have. Over the last three years he has contacted businesses in the Cougar creek, Tenney creek, and Suds creek areas.

Ms. Schramm asked how long he typically gives a business to correct problems?

Mr. Armstrong states he generally works with the business to develop a correction plan.

Mr. Owen asked if there was a common theme or problem among the businesses.



Mr. Armstrong stated that the majority of the businesses do not know about the stormwater ordinance or even where their stormwater goes.

Mr. Owen asked if it would help if a brochure were developed to educate businesses.

Mr. Armstrong replied that in his experience brochures would not be read by a majority of recipients.

Mr. Stubbs asked if there were any businesses that were outstanding?

Mr. Armstrong replied none that he could recall, however he did state that awareness levels have increased.

Mr. Owen asked if Clark County required any stormwater permits.

Mr. Armstrong replied that the county does not but Washington Department of Ecology does, for certain businesses.

Mr. Owen asked how Mr. Armstrong tracked the site visits.

Mr. Armstrong stated that he uses a database one that is also used by Ms. Kappler at 78th street maintenance operations center.

Mr. Wilson was introduced supervisor that oversees the maintenance of private inspections of water quality facilities and street sweeping.

Mr. Wilson explained that the county has over 700 private facilities that are inspected by staff per year.

When Ms. Kappler, a facilities inspector, goes out she identifies overgrown vegetation, overloading of silts or other materials that impede the design function of the facility. She relies heavily on the Stormwater Facility Maintenance manual, which describes how to maintain public and private facilities.

Ms. Kappler stated that one of the toughest aspects of her job is to find out who is responsible for maintaining the stormwater facility.

Ms. Thoet asked how Mr. Armstrong's and Ms. Kappler's positions work together.

Mr. Armstrong replied that while Ms. Kappler is inspecting facilities if she sees a business that has a potential source control issue she contacts him and he follows up with the business.

Mr. Stubbs asked if the Clean Water Program has the authority to issue fines?

Mr. Rowell stated that the Clean Water Program does not have the authority, but the Code Enforcement section in Community Development does.

Mr. Wilson continued saying that once staff finds a facility or structure that is non-compliant a letter is sent to the appropriate party explaining the situation and instructions on how to make the facility or structure compliant. Staff re-visits the property in four to six weeks to see if the problem has been corrected. If the owner of the facility does not fix the problem by the third visit or if they are unwilling to fix the problem they are turned over to code enforcement. Most owners are willing to work with the county to get the facility back into compliance.

Ms. Rasmussen asked if anyone has complained that what we were requiring of them was unreasonable.

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Ms. Kappler stated that no one has ever mentioned to her that what she was asking of them was unreasonable; the requirements are not that strict.

Mr. Wilson stated that out of the 700 facilities that were inspected in the last year 573 are in compliance.

Mr. Owen asked how the information that is entered by Mr. Armstrong, and Ms. Kappler into the database used?

Mr. Swanson replied that he uses the information from the database in his annual report to the Department of Ecology.

Ms. Kappler added that the information provides a history of the facilities and they can determine if there are reoccurring problems with a certain facility.

Mr. Owen asked if there are certain types of facilities that are harder to maintain than others?

Mr. Wilson replied that there are facilities that are harder to maintain than others but it depends on the tools that the owner has for maintenance.

NPDES Permit Annual Report

Mr. Swanson talked to the Clean Water Commissioners about the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) annual report that he writes and submits each year to the department of Ecology that demonstrates how we comply with the NPDES permit requirements. There are sixteen components to the report; it is located on the county web page. The total cost of the program as noted in the report is approximately seven million dollars.

Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

Mr. Swanson mentioned there is a group called the Vancouver Lake Watershed partnership, which is made up of various organizations such as Public Works from Clark County and the City of Vancouver, Clark Public Utilities and the Port of Vancouver. One of the topics was to determine what Vancouver Lake could or should be like and what are some ways to achieve those visions. The group is looking to recruit citizens to join in on this effort.

Low Impact Development

Mr. Rowell recommended the Commissioners focus on these topics to begin discussions on low impact development.

- Educating the group
- Examples of successful programs
- Make code revisions
- Develop a pilot project

Mr. Owen asked how this commission would develop these goals or plans?

Mr. Rowell suggested that he meet with Mr. Stubbs and a couple of other members from the Clean Water Commission and begin discussions on developing this program.

Mr. Stubbs asked the Commission how they felt about narrowing the scope and setting specific goals and objectives for the year.

Ms. Rasmussen suggested putting it on the agenda for the October Clean Water Commission meeting.

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Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15

Next Meeting

The next Clean Water Commission meeting is at Camas Police Station, 2100 NE 3rd Avenue, 10/6/04 @ 6:15 p.m.

Respectively Submitted

Kelli Frost

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